(b) In compliance of the order dated 18.1.2007 of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala which has been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in orders dated 4.4.2011 and 24.8.2011, arrears on account of reckoning of 2 additional increments granted w.e.f. 1.1.1996 for the purpose of Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, Pension and Pensionary benefits as well as Professional Update Allowance for the year 1998-99 have been paid to 12 petitioners who are retired Scientists/Engineers of ISRO.

(c) and (d) Since the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala and Hon'ble Supreme Court do not direct that the judgements should be extended to the non-applicants as well, the applicability of the court orders to other retired Scientists/ Engineers have not been agreed to by the Government.

Giving chance to Scientist to be heard before being sacked

4617. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had made a statement that ISRO would be heard in connection with the irregularities on S Band Spectrum; and

(b) if so, would he not consider it to be right to ask the Department of Space as to why the scientists were not given a chance to explain their position before sacking them summarily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the context of annulment of Antrix-Devas Agreement in February 2011, the Central Government had set up a Two-member High Powered Review Committee (HPRC) on February 10, 2011, comprising Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member of Planning Commission and Prof. Roddam Narasimha, Member of Space Commission and mandated it to (i) review the technical, commercial, procedural and financial aspects of the Agreement, taking into account the report of the internal review conducted by Department of Space (DoS), suggest corrective actions and fix responsibility for lapses if any, and (ii) review adequacy of procedures and approval processes followed by ANTRIX, ISRO and DOS and suggest improvements and changes. The full text of HPRC report, submitted on March 12, 2011, is available on the websites of DoS (www.dos.gov.in) and ISRO (www.isro.gov.in)

Based on examination of the HPRC report, in order to enquire into the circumstances that led to the signing of Antrix-Devas agreement and subsequent

approvals taken in respect of GSAT-6/6A, a High Level Team (HLT) was constituted by Cabinet Secretariat on May 31, 2011 under the chairmanship of Shri Pratyush Sinha IAS (Retd) and former CVC. Secretaries of the Departments ot Space (Dr. K Radhakrishnan), Telecommunications (Shri R. Chandrashekhar) and Expenditure (Shri Sumit Bose) of Government of India were members of HLT.

The HLT had sought clarifications from all the officers (including concerned former Scientists) who at any point in time had dealt with the files concerning the Antrix-DEVAS agreement and the decisions on the satellites.

The High Level Team had sent detailed letters to these Officials, in July 2011, seeking clarifications for their involvement in various lapses and issues including those pointed out by High Powered Review Committee (HPRC) constituted earlier in Feb 2011 in the context of Antrix-Devas deal. While requesting clarifications within 10 days, it was also stated that (i) in case there is a requirement, the officer may also be requested to appear before the HLT; and (ii) if the officer desires, the HLT would be willing to give opportunity for personal hearing and giving views regarding the agreement. HLT received written replies by August 11, 2011. Chairman of the HLT provided opportunity for personal hearing as requested by former Chairman of ISRO. Further, the former Chairman of ISRO followed it up with a letter to Chairman HLT, on August 10, 2011.

The HLT Report was submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat on September 2, 2011. The Conclusions and Recommendations of HLT (Chapter 6 of the Report) are available in the Web sites of DoS (www.dos.gov.in) and ISRO (www.isro.gov.in).

Based on the findings of the High Level Team, the former ISRO Chairman and three other former scientists (who were already superannuated from service) of Department of Space have been excluded from re-employment, committee roles or any other important role under the Government and have been divested of any current assignment / consultancy with the Government.

As elaborated above, the former scientists concerned of ISRO have been given due and adequate chance to explain their position by the High Level Team before taking action.

Executive leaving company

4618. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although Odisha Mineral Development Company (OMDC) All Mines Bisra Lime Stone and Dolmite mines have became the